

4. (Four Times Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic synthetic microfibers, said method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a wet sheet from a slurry containing about 0.5 to 20 % by weight of a fibrous mixture dispersed in water, said fibrous mixture comprising about 90 to 10 % by weight of thermoplastic fibers that are about 7 to 30 mm long and as fine as about 0.1 to 0.8 d mixed with about 10 to 90 % by weight of pulp fibers that are about 2 to 7 mm long;

b. placing said wet sheet on a support;

c. subjecting said wet sheet to high velocity water jet streams of about 50 to 200 kgf/cm² to effect mechanically entangling of said fibrous mixture and to obtain a nonwoven fabric; and

d. passing said nonwoven fabric between a pair of embossing rolls to produce a plurality of discrete protuberances in said nonwoven fabric, said plurality of discrete protuberances being spaced apart from one another in both a longitudinal and a transverse direction of the nonwoven fabric.